



*Ralph Byrd, of Egg Harbor Township, reduced his carbon footprint by installing solar panels, which eliminated 13,230 pounds of carbon dioxide from the air. That is the equivalent of removing one car from the road for one year.*

## What is Solar Power?

Solar, or photovoltaic power, converts sunlight into electricity without creating pollution or using fossil fuels. Photovoltaic panels are installed to capture light and convert it to direct current (DC). A solar inverter then changes the power to alternating current (AC) that is used to meet the electric needs of homes or businesses. The amount of power that is generated depends on the size and the number of solar panels and access to direct sunlight.

Today, homes and businesses with solar panels remain connected to the electrical grid. That way, when the solar panels are not generating enough power to meet customer needs, additional power can be drawn from the grid. Alternatively, when the panels are generating more power than needed, the extra power can go back into the grid, producing a credit for the owner of the solar panels at full retail electric rates.



## Learn about more renewable energy options

There are more great renewable energy technologies, including wind and biopower, to help us meet our energy goals and reduce our use of fossil fuels.

For more information, technical support, and incentives for wind, biopower, and solar initiatives, log on to [NJCleanEnergy.com](http://NJCleanEnergy.com) or call **1-866-NJSMART**.



# Solar Power— A Bright Idea for New Jersey

Harness the power of the sun for clean, renewable energy.



It's a smart way for homes, businesses, schools and other building owners to reduce their carbon footprint, stabilize electric costs, preserve natural resources and support the economy.



# Financial Incentives Make Solar More Affordable

New Jersey is leading the way in solar power. In fact, we're ranked number two in solar installations in the United States.

## Residents and businesses across New Jersey are already seeing the benefits of solar power.

- Reduces pollution
- Stabilizes electric costs
- Lessens our dependence on fossil fuels
- Preserves natural resources
- Strengthens our commitment to our planet's future
- Increases our self-reliance
- Supports local jobs and our State's economy



## Getting Started

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and New Jersey's **Clean Energy Program™** make it easy to get started by offering financial and technical assistance. The first step is to submit an application package, which must include a signed contractor agreement. Applications can be found at [NJCleanEnergy.com/reip](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/reip). It is recommended that customers meet with at least three vendors before choosing a contractor and discussing financing options. A list of renewable energy contractors that have completed a minimum of three New Jersey-based projects can be found at [NJCleanEnergy.com/findatradeally](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/findatradeally).

## Rebates

The **Renewable Energy Incentive Program (REIP)** provides rebates\* that reduce the upfront cost of installing renewable energy systems. Businesses with solar systems up to 50 kilowatts (kW), can receive rebates of up to \$1 per watt installed. Residents can receive up to \$1.75 per watt for systems up to 10 kW, with a *Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®* audit. Residents who do not have the audit can receive up to \$1.55 per watt. REIP also provides substantial incentives for sustainable biomass and wind energy generation.

## Solar Renewable Energy Certificates

**Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs)** make solar installations more affordable to homeowners and businesses. Owners of solar energy systems earn one SREC for 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity produced. Once earned, SRECs may be sold, typically to electricity suppliers, who are required to support renewable energy by the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard. This means that your solar system generates income, as well as electricity.

\*REIP rebate amounts are subject to change without notice.

## Tax Credits

A 30% Federal Investment Tax Credit and an Accelerated Depreciation Schedule are available for businesses on the gross cost of the system. A 30% Federal Investment Tax Credit is available for residents on the net cost of the system.

## Earn credits for the energy you produce

Sometimes a customer's solar panels generate more energy than they need. Net metering allows qualified customers to earn credits for energy generated in excess of their usage. Credits are assessed based on monthly billing cycles. These credits can be carried forward from month to month to be used when needed. Each year, on the anniversary of the customer's interconnection, the customer will be compensated for any unused credits at the cost of wholesale power.

## Our Commitment

We are committed to making solar and other renewable energy sources a vital part of our State's energy mix. **It's all part of the New Jersey Energy Master Plan.** Comprehensive financial options are available for customers. It is recommended that each individual contact several solar installers to find the best available plan. Getting started is easy, just call 1-866-NJSMART.

By 2020, New Jersey will reduce projected growth in energy use by 20% and meet 30% of the State's electricity needs from renewable sources, which is a big step in the fight against global warming.